

Minutes of Special Meeting (Commission Interviews) of October 3, 2013

CALL TO ORDER 7:05 P.M.

ROLL CALL

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Feierbach, Braunstein, Wozniak

COUNCILMEMBERS ABSENT: Lieberman, Warden

Staff Present: City Clerk Cook

Interview Candidates for City Commissions

Discussion ensued regarding the term of the Youth Commission seat. City Clerk Cook pointed out that one of the applicants is a senior in high school, and extending her term beyond the school year, if she is chosen, could be problematic. Discussion ensued regarding the age restrictions for the Youth Commissioners. City Clerk Cook clarified that according to the ordinance, the applicant must not be older than 17 at the time of appointment.

Council concurred to schedule the balloting for the vacant positions at the next regularly-scheduled meeting of October 22nd.

Samuel Perry (Youth, Parks and Recreation)

He stated that he is interested in being involved in the City and understanding how the City functions. He described his work at the YMCA as coach and referee. He stated he has no fear of public speaking. He described the condition of the field at McDougal Park, which is near his home, and pointed out that it is not safe or well maintained. He also noted that Twin Pines and other parks are not always clean. He discussed ways to outreach to other youth for input on Parks and Recreation issues. Discussion ensued regarding the expectation of youth members of the Parks and Recreation Commission, and the use of social media.

Alex Singer (Youth, Parks and Recreation)

She described her involvement in the mock trial club at Carlmont High School, as well as her participation in soccer and other parks and recreation activities and sports. She stated that Parks and Recreation does not have much to offer for those not interested in competitive sports. She stated she has watched the video of some Commission meetings and has attended some meetings. She described the discussion regarding the turf at the Sports Complex. She stated she would offer opinions and ask questions, and would use social media to illicit input from other youth. She expressed the need for more recreational and intramural sports. She described her experience on the Relay for Life Committee. She stated that dogs are not an issue at Barrett. She recognizes that they are not allowed off leash and suggested that certain hours be allocated for off-leash dogs at that location.

Gabriela d'Souza (Youth, Parks and Recreation)

She stated that she recognizes that this position allows youth to have a voice. She described the various leadership roles she holds, including the Green Youth Alliance, the Mock Trial club, cross-country and lacrosse. She described the tasks she undertook while a summer student intern at the Parks and Recreation Department. She explained that she would use social media to outreach to other youth, and she commented that she already uses it for her other leadership positions. She expressed the need for more events for youth. She noted that the fields in many parks need improving. Discussion ensued regarding the potential for extending the term of the position beyond the current school year, since she is a senior who may leave the area for college.

Tran Tran (Finance)

She indicated that although she applied for both the Planning and Finance Commissions, her primary interest is Finance. She described her experience with City staff during the renovation of her home, and indicated it was not a positive one. She stated that applying for a commission would be an opportunity to have a positive experience. She expressed a desire to learn about the City through the Finance Commission's work. She has watched several of the meetings on video and is impressed with the interaction between staff and the Commission. She suggested that the Commission could have prioritized its recommendations for the City Council to consider. She would try to determine how to improve the revenue sources for the City. She would like to encourage more businesses to locate in Belmont by improving the downtown. She added that this might encourage people to spend in Belmont. Discussion ensued regarding the expectations of a finance commissioner. She indicated that there is a sense of disconnect among the commissions and she would look for opportunities for interaction. She commented that planning and parks and recreation decisions have finance impact.

ADJOURNMENT at this time, being 8:25 p.m.

Terri Cook, CMC
City Clerk